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PATENT
Docket No. 0023-0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Ross Suydam HEITKAMP et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/751,841) Group Art Unit: 2111
)
Filed: January 2, 2001) Examiner: K. Dang
)
For: RELIABLE AND REDUNDANT CONTROL)
SIGNALS IN A MULTI-MASTER SYSTEM)

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RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)

On November 19, 2004, the Examiner issued a Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c), indicating that the Appeal Brief, filed September 20, 2004, is defective for failing to comply with one or more provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c). In particular, the Examiner indicated that the Appeal Brief does not contain a "Grouping of Claims" section and is, therefore, defective.

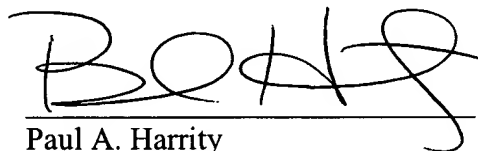
Appellants, respectfully, submit that the Appeal Brief, filed September 20, 2004, fully complies with 37 C.F.R. § 41 that governs the appeal practice. 37 C.F.R. § 41 became effective on September 13, 2004, prior to the filing of Appellants' Appeal Brief. Unlike 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c), 37 C.F.R. § 41 does not require a "Grouping of Claims" section.

Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Notification of Non-Compliance and issue an Examiner's Answer in response to Appellants' Appeal Brief.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 24, 2004

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